

does set forth and put in motion a number of things that will help us move toward that goal and understanding how the state can assist in facilitating the movement off of the welfare system and into the work force. We know what it takes, we heard about all of the problems that we have. One of the things it takes is education. The cycle of poverty that has been there and gone on for generation after generation in some cases, and let's acknowledge now the vast majority of welfare cases are there for less than two years, that they are not review cases...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...that we don't have that problem to a vast majority of a number of recipients, but there is...there are those situations, there is that problem of a cycle of poverty and the best way to break that cycle, well the two ways is obviously education which unlocks a door to decent paying jobs and that's why this is part of the bill. We said it before, education is important to our state. We think it's important to break the cycle of poverty, we take this step, it's a step less than the original bill called for but it's not an unreasonable step. I would ask you to oppose the Chambers amendment and then oppose the Schimek amendment and move on to other sections of the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Byars, do you wish to speak to the Chambers amendment?

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Well, I think I'm speaking to the Chambers amendment, the Schimek amendment, all of the amendments, LB 1224. I think all of us have a tendency to lose sight of something because we don't all work intimately with this subject on a day-to-day basis. Those people who have brought this bill I think probably of all of us within this body, have worked as closely with this type of legislation and with what we call the welfare reform issue in the State of Nebraska than anyone else. You know I find myself agreeing with many of the words that are being spoken by Senator Chambers and I think he's right. He's right in talking about people who have not been treated with dignity. He talked about people that are poor and who are discriminated against because of being poor. He has talked about many people who have absolutely no consideration or care about those same people, but that's I think, Senator Chambers, I'm sorry, is when we had a parting of the ways. This legislation is not designed to punish poor